

Needham Board of Health Minutes

June 14, 2019

Board: Edward Cosgrove, PhD, Chair
Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP, Member
Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD, Vice Chair
Christina S. Mathews, MPH, Member
Robert A. Partridge, MD, MPH, Member (absent)

Convene: Rosemary Recreation Complex, 178 Rosemary Street, Multi-purpose Room

Staff Present: Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, Maryanne Dinell, Tiffany Zike, Diana Acosta, Catherine Delano, Carol Read, Dawn Stiller

Dr. Cosgrove Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m.

Ms. Gurge and the Board discussed Board organization. Dr. Cosgrove made a motion to reorganize the Board. Dr. Epstein made a motion to have Dr. Cosgrove become the Chair of the Board for 2019-2020 and Dr. Cosgrove seconded. Dr. Brown will remain Vice Chair. **The Board voted unanimously to have Dr. Cosgrove become Board Chair for 2019-2020.**

A discussion ensued on fall meeting times. Tuesday December, 10 was selected for the evening meeting. The time for the Friday meetings on September 13, October 11, and November 8, will be 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Brown made two changes to previous minutes. For April, in paragraph 4 of the section on the Warrant for Town Meeting, the job title should be "Public Information Officer" rather than "Director of Health and Human Services." For May, in the second paragraph on page 4, the job title should be "Director of Health and Human Services" rather than "Director of Public Health." **Dr. Brown then made a motion to approve both sets of minutes April 12 and May 10 as amended. Dr. Cosgrove seconded the motion. Upon motion duly made and seconded the vote was unanimous. The April and May 2019 minutes were accepted as amended.**

Public Health Nursing Report—Ms. Tiffany Zike

Ms. Zike provided the communicable diseases report. There were four influenza cases, all influenza B. There were five cases of Lyme disease (Ms. Zike said it was normal to have an increase occur over the summer months.) There were two Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA) cases, one in an older male and one in a child. There was one case of babesiosis. There was one case of salmonella in an elderly resident who left chicken out on the counter for a long time. Ms. Zike provided education to the resident on causes and proper food handling. There was one case of giardia with a college student who had symptoms for two months before going to a doctor.

Environmental Health Report—Ms. Tara Gurge and Ms. Diana Acosta

Ms. Acosta said it has been a busy month with many temporary food event permit applications. Ms. Acosta is still working on the rodent control issue with the Hearth Pizza and Farmhouse Restaurant dumpsters. The Planning Board has approved moving their dumpster.

Ms. Acosta spoke about a resident who has made several complaints regarding serious environmental issues including toxic air on his property and nuclear materials on another property. Ms. Acosta plans to visit the property after she speaks with the resident. If a meeting is arranged, Mr. Jack Priest and a public health nurse will accompany Ms. Acosta. Dr. Epstein and Dr. Cosgrove recommended that a social worker accompany them as well.

Ms. Acosta reported that she had inspected all town public and semi-public swimming pools and they have passed inspection.

Dr. Cosgrove noted a rodent siting was identified in the report on Cottage Street. Ms. Acosta visited the area which was an unkempt grass section behind Webster Green. The owner on Cottage Street said the patch of land is owned by Webster Green but it was not noticed by Webster Green management as it is located behind a fence. Webster Green is hiring a landscaper and will also bait for pest control.

In response to a question from Dr. Cosgrove, Ms. Acosta said that Servante is going in where Acorns Bakery was. The permit has been delayed by the requirement for an accessible bathroom. In response to a question from Dr. Brown, Ms. Acosta said that Farmers Market permit inspections take place each Sunday, along with temperature checks for the vendors with refrigeration. Stephanie McCulloch, the new intern, performs the checks most Sundays with Ms. Acosta doing them on days when Ms. McCulloch is unavailable. Ms. Gurge noted that Corrie Locke-Hardy, the new market manager, and Tom Gehman the part-time manager, are working to make sure vendors are abiding by the regulations.

Dr. Cosgrove asked about the sewer extension on Walker Lane. Ms. Gurge had worked with the homeowner 18 months ago who had a cesspool pipe failure and repair. After two years, a sewer tie-in is required. The extension proposal has not yet been submitted and the owner was informed that he had only 6 months left in the two year extension from the pipe repair date. Ms. Gurge said that, although the pipe is still operational, the owner needs to bring a plan to the Public Health Division which will also be shared with the Town Engineering, Conservation, and Water & Sewer departments. Dr. Cosgrove remarked that the property owner appears to be making a good faith effort and Ms. Gurge agreed. She noted that the four neighbors are on board and want to find the right price and the right contractor. Ms. Gurge said that the owner may ask for an extension. Ms. Gurge will provide a status update at the July board meeting.

Ms. Brown questioned the circumstance of Cookies by Design, cited twice for not wearing gloves. Ms. Acosta said that the owner claims he cannot decorate the cookies with gloves but he has been reminded that it is the regulation and that other bakery sites comply without issue.

Traveling Meals Program Report—Ms. Mary Anne Dinell

Ms. Dinell reported that six hundred ninety-nine meals were delivered in May and that the summer program begins June 20 and four people were hired to deliver meals for the summer months. Ms. Dinell noted a case where the Traveling Meals Program, for the first time, has suspended delivery to one of the Springwell consumers due to unsafe delivery conditions. Volunteers have reported hazards, unsafe conditions, and have refused to deliver to this house. The client has been referred back to Springwell and to Ms. Gurge. Ms. Gurge will follow up with the consumer on Monday with the expectations of

arranging for a wellness visit that includes a town social worker, our public health nurse, and the Springwell case manager.

Substance Abuse Coordinator Report—Ms. Catherine Delano

Ms. Delano reported that she distributed the parent survey, which compliments with the MetroWest Adolescent Health survey, four weeks ago. The survey will close at the end of June.

Ms. Delano reported that the new summer intern from the Boston University School of Public Health is working with the MetroWest survey data and will be providing comparisons with previous years. Ms. Delano said that this level of statistical analysis, not previously enjoyed by the Public Health Division before, will help with programming decisions and will provide strong data for future grant applications. Ms. Delano is working with Ms. Read, Ms. Gurge and Ms. Acosta on researching marijuana regulations in the US and in Canada. Ms. Delano is also working with Ms. Mathews on creating a vaping task team.

Ms. Delano is also working on developing a vaping youth cessation program. Youth vaping is such a new issue that programs do not exist yet but a strong one is needed. Ms. Christina Matthews asked if the School Health curriculum covers vaping in the schools health curriculum. Ms. Delano said, while it is not now on the curriculum, the new Director of Youth and Family Services has discussed this with school administration.

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Coordinator Report—Ms. Carol Read

Ms. Read is working with Chief Schlittler, Lieutenant Baker, and a consultant to prepare the Jail/Arrest Diversion Grant Program grant application. The scope of the grant focuses on the social worker and law enforcement co-response model. If awarded, the grant will provide funding to hire a social worker to work in the police department. The social worker will co-respond with police officers on emergency calls that involve residents who are experiencing chronic substance use disorders or mental health conditions. The social worker will also work as a liaison with the Needham Department of Health and Human Services social work team to provide resources and support to residents with chronic mental health and substance use disorders and their families.

Currently, Ms. Read and the core team of the Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) (Public Health nurses, police, and social workers) is working with the Riverside Emergency Services team to develop an in-home crisis support as an alternative to residents seeking mental health care at local Emergency Departments. Chris Lauzon, the Director of Emergency Services at Riverside, attends Needham CCIT meetings and is working to expand Riverside's community-based support program. Dr. Epstein said that not all the stakeholders at BID Needham are familiar with the CCIT model. The Emergency Department frequently has late night mental health related emergencies. A discussion ensued concerning challenges in the Beth Israel Deaconess Needham ED due to limited space and limited overnight counselor availability. Ms. Read said these challenges are discussed with BID Needham leaders who attend the quarterly CCIT Community Partners meetings. Newton-Wellesley Hospital is developing protocols for police and EMS transports of people with mental health and substance including assessment and referral to treatment. These protocols will be shared with BID Needham.

Ms. Read said the state SAPC regional prevention grants funded through the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant program are contracted through June 2020. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health- Bureau of Substance Addiction Services is creating a new procurement for

substance use prevention funding which is expected to be released in January 2020. Information on the structure and goals of the procurement is not yet available.

To prevent underage access to alcohol the SAPC region police chiefs conduct bi-annual alcohol licensee compliance checks. All four SAPC towns have identified violations in sales to minors during each round of compliance checks. Dr. Epstein recommended a joint meeting with the Select Board soon to discuss violations, jurisdiction, and the need for defined penalties. A Board discussion ensued on revisiting the issue of defining penalty violations and on publicizing any repeat violations.

The SAPC regional grant has funded nine TIPS alcohol licensee trainings in which over 265 staff from Dedham, Needham, Norwood and Westwood have participated. To sustain the TIPS training program, police and public health staff attended the TIPS Train the Trainer program which will allow them to become certified TIPS trainers.

Ms. Read attended the Mass Health Council Vaping forum at Bentley University. Ms. Read provided copies of presentations from the forum.

Vaping and Tobacco Regulations

At the May Board of Health meeting, Mr. Robert Partridge asked whether copies of these model letters could be sent to Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) so they could share them with other boards of health. Ms. Gurge said that she had heard from DJ Wilson who said that he would forward the request to Cheryl Sbarra since she is with MAHB and she can determine her group's distribution of this letter. Ms. Gurge also reminded the Board that Mr. Wilson asked whether he can forward the letters to the lobbyists at Cancer, Heart, Lung, and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids organizations. The Board said it was fine for the model letters to be shared with MAHB and the lobbyists for the other organizations.

Ms. Gurge reported that Mr. Wilson had no updates as of June 13 for any flavor bans elsewhere in the State. The Somerville proposed mint elimination hearing at Middlesex Superior Court is July 1. He will provide an updated list of latest flavor bans by town after that date.

A discussion ensued on national movement to move all e cigarette sales to adult only shops. Needham has no adult only shops. The Board will look at convenience stores sales and the effect of the flavor ban in Needham 6 months after the ban goes into effect July 1. There may be more data from the schools and the MetroWest survey at this point to further inform the Board's discussion.

Pest and Trash Management

The Town has agreed to take on the pest contract by hiring EHS Pest Control to conduct two, 3-consecutive day, Rat Ice treatments on the town and church properties. Rat Ice pellets can eliminate the population by 90-95%. After putting the dry Rat Ice in the rat holes, the EHS Pest Control team can take care of the entire colony at the same time. The eradication will take place the end of June. The Town DPW will have to remove the heavily brushed island areas in the parking lot and also the brushed area next to the shared Hearth Pizza and Farmhouse dumpsters after the eradication. The dumpster move discussion will take place on site the week of June 17th or the following week.

A discussion ensued on adding to the waste hauler regulations that more strict regular collections must occur in certain circumstances. Suggestions included a period of six hours from the restaurant closing. Another suggestion was a 24-hour time period. Set fines may need to be part of the new hauler regulations. Ms. Gurge is working on an assessment of what other towns, including Boston, do with these types of issues.

Dr. Cosgrove asked about how Wellesley manages the problem. Ms. Gurge said demolition pest control protocols, similar to Needham, are in place there. Ms. Lynn Schoeff will be looking at the pest protocols at planning level in Waltham and Boston and will report back for the July meeting. She will also include violation fees in her report.

The Board will examine the current hauler regulations in light of the above information and adjust as needed.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)

Ms. Gurge conveyed that Mr. McDonald has a request of the Board. If Mr. McDonald writes a statement to the press in support of accessory dwelling units, would the board would be willing to review the draft? Dr. Cosgrove responded that the Board would be happy to review the draft statement prior to their July meeting and vote at the July meeting on whether or not to support the statement. If supported the statement would be posted on the website, and sent to the Needham Times and the Hometown Weekly.

Needham's 10 Essential Health Services

Ms. Gurge included Lynn Schoeff's latest document from 2017 in the Board Packet, and said that Needham is keeping up with most of the ten essential services. The document is provided as a review. Dr. Cosgrove noted we have been ahead of the curve for a while but the Board should review regularly.

Other Business

Ms. Zike said the CPR tourniquet Stop the Bleed kits have been received for all town buildings except the schools. Ms. Zike also said that she, Ms. Carmichael, and all the fire department staff are trained in Stop the Bleed. Narcan training occurred in May at the Library. Ms. Zike will be doing training as requested. Dr. Epstein said that the Surgeon General is pushing all health care providers to carry Narcan with them. A discussion ensued on having Narcan available in all Town buildings. Because Narcan expires, it would need to be rotated out and should be kept with the AEDs so it can be checked every six months. Dr. Epstein said he is willing to meet with Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick, the Town Manager, to further explain the usefulness of Narcan in all Town buildings.

Ms. Zike stated that a future discussion of camp licensing protocols should happen to make sure they match the town concussion regulations. A discussion occurred regarding the goals for the nursing department, specifically regarding prevention with youth.

A discussion of HPV vaccinations and vaccinations also occurred. Dr. Epstein recommended talking to pediatricians locally re: HPV rates.

Dr. Cosgrove suggested working with the schools and Youth and Family Services division on across the board prevention issues.

The new Town website is scheduled to be available in early July. The concussion protocol will be a priority to avoid having to use paper forms for part of the process. The regulations note that the protocol will go into effect in the fall.

Ms. Zike has taken on the public health emergency preparedness role. As of July 1, Emergency Management is in the Fire Department budget. If the Fire Department does not appoint someone to the emergency management position, and if they require Ms. Zike's services, then Fire will have to pay for her overtime by Fire. The board is happy to discuss with the Fire Chief over the summer.

Ms. Gurge and Ms. Brown attended the workshop at the Center at the Heights on healthy and sustainable eating as it also relates to climate change. Ms. Brown is working with other researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health on a study about reducing food waste by 50% and sugar consumption by 50%. The study includes getting more people to cook at home. Ms. Gurge noted that the Farmer's Market has handouts on healthy eating and that healthy eating will be part of the restaurant week. Ms. Mathews and Dr. Cosgrove asked if the healthy eating information could be highlighted on the new Town website either in a separate section or a special place within the Public Health Division

Dr. Cosgrove said that the Special Commission on Local and Regional Health will finalize its report at the end of June meeting. Dr. Cosgrove said he has been nominated to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

A motion was made by Dr. Epstein to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. Upon motion duly made and seconded the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9 am.

The next meeting is Friday July 19 7-9 am.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Crisley